

PEARL RIVER WATERSHED  
NORTHSIDE SUN  
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1. Question. Today (14 March 2011), Gary Walker was talking about the post-Katrina requirements regarding the levee plan and flood control. What are those requirements?

Answer. Subsequent to Hurricane Katrina, the level of peer review increased significantly for feasibility reports recommending improvements reducing risk of flooding. In particular, an Agency Technical Review of study reports must be performed by other Corps District offices. An Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) is also required for controversial projects and/or projects exceeding \$45 million per the Water Resources Development Act, 2007. The IEPR is accomplished completely outside the Corps and may include organizations such as the National Academy of Science, universities, industry, or some combination thereof. In view of project construction costs expected to exceed \$45 million for any plan of improvement recommended for the metro Jackson area, IEPR will be required.

2. Question. I understand the levee plan will have to change because of developments that have been permitted in the flood plain. Can you explain that to me a little further?

Answer. Land use and development is a local responsibility. The Corps recommended comprehensive levee plan proposed levee alignments to avoid development and improvements, where possible, by being located primarily on open ground. Because of extensive and rapid development in the area, an updated evaluation of development and improvements in the study area is required. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not regulate flood plain use and development--this is a local responsibility. A Department of the Army permit is required only for the discharge of dredged (excavated) and/or fill material into the waters of the United States and/or the construction of any structure or work occurring in, or affecting, navigable waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

3. Question. Also, I would like to find out about the Shoccoe Dam study. When was it completed, and how much did it cost?

Answer. The Mobile District completed the Pearl River Basin Interim Report on Flood Control and EIS in July 1985. This report recommended Schoccoe Dam be authorized for implementation as a Federal project at a total estimated cost of \$80,100,000 (1985 price levels). The proposed Shoccoe dry dam project was located at the head of Ross Barnett Reservoir and would have significantly reduced flooding in the downstream metro Jackson area. The plan was not implemented largely due to opposition to the project. The Mobile District completed the Pearl River Basin Interim Report on Flood Control and EIS in July 1985 at a total study cost of approximately \$2,218,000. This study was completed at full Federal expense.